



Paw Paw (*Asimina triloba*)  
The fruit is used for food. The innerbark is used to make string and rope.

## Native, Culturally Significant Plants

### Enhancement Activity

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) offers an opportunity to promote improved plant management by rewarding or encouraging the use of native, culturally significant plants in conservation practices such as: field borders, vegetative barriers, contour buffer strips, waterways, shelterbelts, windbreaks, riparian forest and herbaceous buffers.

This enhancement activity will provide resource benefits beyond the minimum level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards.

### Benefits

- Cultural preservation
- Increased plant health and vigor
- Increased population of beneficial insects and pollinators
- Increased socioeconomic benefits
- Increased plant biodiversity
- Enhanced wildlife habitat



Deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)  
Used for basketry  
Photo: Kat Anderson

### CSP Payments

You can earn payments by maintaining (benchmark activity) or planting (new activity) native, culturally significant plants in your vegetative conservation practices.

*Benchmark enhancement activities* are those that are already in place or being performed at the time of signup. Benchmark enhancements receive payments in the first year of the CSP contract. Benchmark enhancements receive 120% of the enhancement payment rate in the first year. The payment declines each year as follows: 120%, 100%, 80%, 60%, 30%, 10%, 0%.

*New enhancement activities* are those that will be implemented during the contract period. New enhancements are paid at a flat rate of 100% each year once they are established.

All CSP Enhancement earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

**Client’s Acknowledgement Statement:**

- I have elected to use the plant management enhancement activity for native, culturally significant plants and understand the requirements of this activity.
- I certify that the benchmark activities listed below are already in place on my operation.
- I will establish the new activities listed below during my contract period. I understand that I will not receive a CSP enhancement payment until the activity is implemented.
- I agree to provide written documentation of the activity performed (use the attached worksheet or equivalent) to NRCS upon request.
- I agree to keep records of receipts for any materials, parts, equipment or services used to implement this activity
- I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of this activity.

Client’s signature:

Date:

Enter the total number of acres of the enhancement activity that will be implemented or maintained under the CSP contract in the table below. Enhancement activities receiving financial assistance from another federal programs will not receive a CSP payment until they are no longer required in that contract.

Enhancement Activity	Benchmark Activity	New Activity
Total number of acres of native, culturally significant, plants under CSP contract		

*Reviewed by NRCS, signature:*

*date:*

